UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
(C/O PATENT ADMINISTRATOR)
2900 K STREET NW, SUITE 200
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5118

EXAMINER
NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/966,733	IEPEREN, TACO VAN
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	George C. Neurauter, Jr.	2443	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 August 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14 and 21-52* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14 and 21-52* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-14 and 21-52 are currently presented and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 18 August 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that "Exchange" does not teach or suggest the currently amended claims, specifically creating a shared workspace for a scheduled meeting prior to the scheduled meeting and making the shared workspace accessible to participants of the scheduled meeting through a graphical user interface immediately after the shared workspace is created. The Examiner respectfully disagrees in view of the teachings and reasonable suggestions disclosed in "Exchange".

"Exchange" expressly disclosed:

"When you join a conference, your browser displays a conference window. The conference window is customized according to the conference technology providers used and whether participants access the conference before, during, or after the scheduled time of the conference...The set of conference technologies available in a conference is defined by the conference resource that the organizer selects when scheduling the conference...At the end of [a] period participants are disconnected from conference resources, unless the administrator configures a grace period and the conference technology providers honor it. Grace periods allow attendees to arrive early or leave late. Grace periods apply to all scheduled conferences on the site." (see Chapter 2, specifically subsection "Conference Window") (see also Chapter 2 regarding

the "Data Conferencing Provider" regarding windows shown in a GUI of the user by the

"Data Conferencing Provider" when accessing the conference)

From these disclosures in "Exchange", it is clear that it is possible to enable a

shared workspace that is created upon scheduling a meeting to be available at any time

prior to the scheduled meeting including immediately after the scheduled meeting is

created, given the reasonable suggestions that the "grace period" disclosed in

"Exchange" can be extended to any particular time.

Therefore, "Exchange" does reasonably suggest this limitation.

The Applicant also continues to argue that "Exchange" does not teach or suggest

a graphical user interface that enables each participant to store data and categorize the

data stored in the shared workspace using a set of defined categories associated with

the workspace. The Examiner continues to respectfully disagree and maintains the

views previously presented. The Applicant should also consider the above disclosures

of "Exchange" which discuss the "Data Conferencing Provider" and regarding windows

shown in a GUI of the user by the "Data Conferencing Provider" when accessing the

conference.

Therefore, "Exchange" continues to anticipate the claimed invention and the

claims are not in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-14 and 21-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning".

Regarding claim 1, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses a method for creating and managing a shared workspace in a network environment comprising the steps of:

creating a shared workspace accessible to participants of a scheduled meeting; categorizing data stored in said shared workspace; and exposing said categorized data stored in said shared workspace to each participant of said scheduled meeting accessing said shared workspace through a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface enabling each participant to input data into appropriate categories of said shared workspace and edit categorized data exposed through said graphical user interface. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Key Components", specifically the text "Microsoft® Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server enables remote, real-time collaboration between team members..."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference Management Service, specifically the text "When you schedule a conference, Conference Management Server creates a URL for the conference. Conference attendees then use this URL to access the conference through conference access pages. Conference Management Service stores all scheduled conferences in a specific mailbox...This information is used to create a persistent representation of the conference format, structure, and any additional information associated with the

conference."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically

subsection "How Data Conferencing Provider Works", specifically the text "A data

conference has the following features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with

other participants by using cut, copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load

or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or display other graphical information in

the multipage, multiuser drawing application...NetMeeting 3.01 or later is the

recommended client software for Data Conferencing Provider. It provides the features

mentioned previously...")

Regarding claim 2, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 wherein data stored in said shared

workspace is categorized into two or more of agenda, goals, decisions, tasks, file

attachments, whiteboard notes and drawing categories. (Chapter 2 "Exchange

Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing

Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following

features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with other participants by using cut,

copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and

organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser

drawing application...")

Regarding claim 3, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said categorized data stored in said

shared workspace can be exposed to multiple participants simultaneously. (Chapter 2

"Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Key Components",

specifically the text "Microsoft® Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server enables remote, real-time collaboration between team members..."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with other participants by using cut, copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser drawing application...")

Regarding claim 4, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 3 wherein said categorized data stored in said shared workspace can be edited by multiple participants simultaneously. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Key Components", specifically the text "Microsoft® Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server enables remote, real-time collaboration between team members..."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with other participants by using cut, copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser drawing application...")

Regarding claim 5, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 4 wherein changes to categorized data stored in said shared workspace made by participants are applied to said categorized data using an optimistic editing model. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server

Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing Provider Works",

specifically the text "A data conference has the following features...**Shared Clipboard**

You can <u>share data</u> with other participants by using cut, copy, and paste

operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or

display other graphical information in the multipage, <u>multiuser</u> drawing application...")

Regarding claim 6, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shared workspace is created

automatically when a new meeting is scheduled. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing

Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference Management Service,

specifically the text "When you schedule a conference, Conference Management Server

creates a URL for the conference. Conference attendees then use this URL to access

the conference through conference access pages. Conference Management Service

stores all scheduled conferences in a specific mailbox...This information is used to

create a persistent representation of the conference format, structure, and any

additional information associated with the conference.")

Regarding claim 7, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 6 further comprising the step of sending a link

to the created shared workspace to each participant of the scheduled meeting. (Chapter

2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference

Management Service", specifically the text "When you schedule a conference,

Conference Management Server creates a URL for the conference. Conference

attendees then use this URL to access the conference through conference access

pages."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Auxiliary Components", specifically the text "A link (URL) to the online conference is included in the invitations the conference participants receive...")

Regarding claim 8, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 7 wherein the link is attached to a scheduled meeting request delivered to each participant of the meeting. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Auxiliary Components", specifically the text "A link (URL) to the online conference is included in the invitations the conference participants receive...")

Regarding claim 9, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said shared workspace is created for a new meeting in response to user input. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference Management Service", specifically the text "When you schedule a conference, Conference Management Server creates a URL for the conference. Conference attendees then use this URL to access the conference through conference access pages. Conference Management Service stores all scheduled conferences in a specific mailbox...This information is used to create a persistent representation of the conference format, structure, and any additional information associated with the conference.")

Regarding claim 10, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 9 further comprising the step of sending a link to the created shared workspace to each participant of the meeting. (Chapter 2

"Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Conference

Management Service, specifically the text "When you schedule a conference,

Conference Management Server creates a URL for the conference. Conference

attendees then use this URL to access the conference through conference access

pages."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection

"Auxiliary Components", specifically the text "A link (URL) to the online conference is

included in the invitations the conference participants receive...")

        Regarding claim 11, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 10 wherein the link is attached to a scheduled

meeting request delivered to each participant of the meeting. (Chapter 2 "Exchange

Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Auxiliary Components",

specifically the text "A link (URL) to the online conference is included in the invitations

the conference participants receive...")

        Regarding claim 12, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of restricting

access to the categorized data stored in said shared workspace to participants of the

scheduled meeting based on network login information. (Chapter 1 "Welcome to

Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing

Server in Your Organization", specifically "Conference Management Service receives

the user's request and attempts to find the associated conference in the conference

calendar mailbox. After Conference Management Service locates the conference

definition in the conference calendar mailbox, it determines whether a password or user authentication is required.")

Regarding claim 13, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 12 wherein said network login information includes user login identifications. (Chapter 1 "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically "Conference Management Service receives the user's request and attempts to find the associated conference in the conference calendar mailbox. After Conference Management Service locates the conference definition in the conference calendar mailbox, it determines whether a password or user authentication is required.")

Regarding claim 14, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses the method of claim 13 wherein during creation of said shared workspace, the user login identifications of participants of said scheduled meeting are stored with said shared workspace, during access to said shared workspace by a user, the login identification of said user being compared with the login identifications stored with said shared workspace. (Chapter 1 "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically "Conference Management Service receives the user's request and attempts to find the associated conference in the conference calendar mailbox. After Conference Management Service locates the conference definition in the conference calendar mailbox, it determines whether a password or user authentication is required."; Chapter

2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Security",

specifically the text "You can create a public conference that participants can access

with the correct password. The conference technology provider uses the password to

further limit access...You can create a private conference so that only attendees that

you invite can participate. Conference Management Service, the conference technology

provider, or both, check the credentials of each participant to see if he or she is

authorized to participate in the conference. If Conference Management Service

performs the check, it uses IIS to check the user's credentials. Only attendees who

have credentials known to IIS can access the conference pages.")

Regarding claim 21, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system for creating and managing a secure shared workspace for

a scheduled meeting (see Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", Figure

2.1) comprising:

a workspace server ("Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server"; see also Chapter 1

"Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", specifically subsection "Conference

Management Service" and Chapter 3, Planning Your Exchange Conferencing Server

Installation", specifically subsection "Server Requirements") executing a server shared

workspace application for creating and managing a shared workspace associated with a

scheduled meeting, data stored in said shared workspace being categorized and being

accessible only to participants of said scheduled meeting; an email server executing a

server email and scheduling application ("Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server" running

"Outlook calendar"; see Chapter 3, Planning Your Exchange Conferencing Server

Installation", specifically subsection "Server Requirements"; and a plurality of

workstations, each of said workstations executing a client email and scheduling

application ("Outlook 2000") and a client shared workspace application ("NetMeeting"),

said client shared workspace application including a graphical user interface to enable

each participant of said scheduled meeting to access and edit categorized data stored

in said shared workspace. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts",

specifically subsection "Key Components", specifically the text "Microsoft® Exchange

2000 Conferencing Server enables remote, real-time collaboration between team

members..."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically

subsection "Conference Management Service, specifically the text "When you schedule

a conference, Conference Management Server creates a URL for the conference.

Conference attendees then use this URL to access the conference through conference

access pages. Conference Management Service stores all scheduled conferences in a

specific mailbox...This information is used to create a persistent representation of the

conference format, structure, and any additional information associated with the

conference."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically

subsection "How Data Conferencing Provider Works", specifically the text "A data

conference has the following features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with

other participants by using cut, copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load

or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or display other graphical information in

the multipage, multiuser drawing application...NetMeeting 3.01 or later is the

recommended client software for Data Conferencing Provider. It provides the features

mentioned previously...")

Regarding claim 22, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 21 wherein data stored in said shared

workspace is categorized into two or more of agenda, goals, decisions, tasks, file

attachments, whiteboard notes and drawing categories. (Chapter 2 "Exchange

Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing

Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following

features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with other participants by using cut,

copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and

organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser

drawing application...")

Regarding claim 23, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 22 wherein the client shared

workspace application communicates with the client email and scheduling application

executed by each workstation, said client shared workspace application intercepting

meeting requests generated by said client email and scheduling application to

determine whether a shared workspace is to be created for a new meeting being

scheduled or whether a shared workspace existing for a scheduled meeting is to be

updated. (Chapter 1, "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection

"Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically the text "You

can directly reserve a conference resource using Outlook 2000. Outlook 2000 checks

the free/busy information for the resource and adds the resource to the invitation if the

resource is available. This gives you a confirmed reservation. When you send an

invitation, the conference resource is reserved and the URL for the conference is

included in the invitations.")

Regarding claim 24, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein said client shared

workspace application instructs the server shared workspace application to create a

shared workspace for a new meeting being scheduled automatically. (Chapter 1,

"Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange

Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically the text "You can directly

reserve a conference resource using Outlook 2000. Outlook 2000 checks the free/busy

information for the resource and adds the resource to the invitation if the resource is

available. This gives you a confirmed reservation. When you send an invitation, the

conference resource is reserved and the URL for the conference is included in the

invitations.")

Regarding claim 25, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein said client shared

workspace application asks the user scheduling the new meeting whether a shared

workspace for the new meeting is to be created and instructs the server shared

workspace application to create a shared workspace for the new meeting when

specified by said user. (Chapter 1, "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server",

subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically the

text "You can directly reserve a conference resource using Outlook 2000. Outlook 2000 checks the free/busy information for the resource and adds the resource to the invitation if the resource is available. This gives you a confirmed reservation. When you send an invitation, the conference resource is reserved and the URL for the conference is included in the invitations.")

Regarding claim 26, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein the client shared workspace application attaches a link to the shared workspace to the meeting request generated by the client email and scheduling application before the meeting request is sent to the server email and scheduling application. (Chapter 1, "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization", specifically the text "When you send an invitation, the conference resource is reserved and the URL for the conference is included in the invitations.")

Regarding claim 27, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and Planning" discloses a system according to claim 23 wherein said client and server shared workspace applications permit multiple participants to access and edit data stored in said shared workspace. (Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "Key Components", specifically the text "Microsoft® Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server enables remote, real-time collaboration between team members..."; Chapter 2 "Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data Conferencing Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with

other participants by using cut, copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load

or sketch diagrams and organizational charts, or display other graphical information in

the multipage, multiuser drawing application...")

Regarding claim 28, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 27 wherein changes to data stored in

said shared workspace are applied using an optimistic editing model. (Chapter 2

"Exchange Conferencing Server Concepts", specifically subsection "How Data

Conferencing Provider Works", specifically the text "A data conference has the following

features...**Shared Clipboard** You can share data with other participants by using cut,

copy, and paste operations...**Whiteboard** You can load or sketch diagrams and

organizational charts, or display other graphical information in the multipage, multiuser

drawing application...")

Regarding claim 29, "Exchange 2000 Conferencing Server Concepts and

Planning" discloses a system according to claim 21 wherein said server shared

workspace application restricts access to said shared workspace based on user

network login information. (Chapter 1 "Welcome to Exchange 2000 Conferencing

Server", subsection "Using Exchange Conferencing Server in Your Organization",

specifically "Conference Management Service receives the user's request and attempts

to find the associated conference in the conference calendar mailbox. After Conference

Management Service locates the conference definition in the conference calendar

mailbox, it determines whether a password or user authentication is required.")

Claims 30-43 are also rejected since these claims recite substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1-14 respectively.

Claims 44-52 are also rejected since these claims recite substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 12.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is 571-272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on the hours between 8:30am-5:00pm Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tonia Dollinger, can be reached on 571-272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/George C. Neurauter, Jr./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2443